

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021

HR 1002

4  
5 By: Representative C. Fite

6  
7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 **TO URGE THE ACTIVATION OF CLOSED CAPTIONING ON**  
9 **TELEVISION MONITORS IN PUBLIC VENUES.**

10  
11  
12 **Subtitle**

13 **TO URGE THE ACTIVATION OF CLOSED**  
14 **CAPTIONING ON TELEVISION MONITORS IN**  
15 **PUBLIC VENUES.**

16  
17  
18 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
19 **OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:**

20  
21 **WHEREAS, in the interest of eliminating isolation and segregation and**  
22 **encouraging the gathering and participation of all individuals, it is sound**  
23 **policy to promote full and equal communication access to all; and**

24  
25 **WHEREAS, televisions are increasingly used in venues open to the**  
26 **general public, including without limitation hospital waiting rooms, medical**  
27 **offices, medical centers, restaurants, small businesses, health clubs, social**  
28 **recreation facilities, airport lounges, and more; and**

29  
30 **WHEREAS, hearing loss is a part of life for many individuals in the**  
31 **United States; and**

32  
33 **WHEREAS, a 2011 study by Johns Hopkins University researchers estimated**  
34 **that approximately one (1) in five (5) Americans who are twelve (12) years of**  
35 **age or older have some type of hearing loss in one (1) or both ears that**  
36 **affects their ability to communicate and receive information; and**



1  
2           WHEREAS, hearing loss is one of the most common disabilities in the  
3 United States; and

4  
5           WHEREAS, closed captioning displays the audio portion of a television  
6 program in text form on the television screen, providing access to news,  
7 entertainment, and information for individuals who are deaf or hard of  
8 hearing; and

9  
10           WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission requires video  
11 programming shown on television or over the internet after being shown on  
12 television to be closed captioned; and

13  
14           WHEREAS, all televisions are now built to support closed captioning;  
15 and

16  
17           WHEREAS, activating closed captioning on television monitors located in  
18 public venues promotes full communication access for people who are deaf or  
19 hard of hearing; improves comprehension for viewers who are learning English  
20 as a second language; provides access to news and information for everyone in  
21 what may be a noisy environment; improves comprehension of on-screen dialogue  
22 that may be spoken very quickly or mumbled, spoken in another dialect, or  
23 muffled by background noise; and assures full information is shared with all  
24 citizens during emergencies,

25  
26 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-  
27 THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

28  
29           THAT the House of Representatives urge the activation of closed  
30 captioning on television monitors located in public venues during hours when  
31 the venue is open to the general public and the monitors are in use.